

Samuel Swartwout to Andrew Jackson, March 27, 1830, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

SAMUEL SWARTWOUT TO JACKSON.1

1 Nothing could show better than this letter how the designing politicians got Jackson's sympathy and kept it. Swartwout was a precious scamp and a facile pander to the dispensers of patronage. See vol. III., p. 268n.

New York, March 27, 1830.

Dear Sir, I am overwhelmed with grief that you should have had so much trouble with me. I will barely trouble you further with regard to my unfortunate nomination and matters connected with it, to assure your Excellency, upon *my honor*, that any representations which have been made to you, or others at Washington, or elsewhere, with regard to the objects of a certain supper got up on the 4th of March, in honor of your inauguration, with an intent to make it be believed that I took an interest in it, further than to unite with my fellow Citizens, in the expression of that single sentiment, is utterly untrue.

The miserable subterfuges which are hourly and secretly resorted to to injure me in your good opinion, has induced me to trouble you with this explanation of a very trifling matter and I hope it will be credited. What will next be attributed to me, I am unable to conjecture, but of one thing I beg you to be assured, that after the evidences you have given me of your personal regard and confidence, I would sooner die than deceive you or do any thing that should occasion you pain or regret.

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I am, Dr Sir, with every sentiment of veneration and regard, most sincerely and affectionately

P. S. I beg you to [be] further assured, *all reports* to the contrary notwithstanding, that I have not expressed any opinion but one on the subject of the next Presidency and that is for your reelection. I confine myself wholly and solely to the duties of my office.